

Airmen jump at the opportunity



Photo by Tom Sanders

Maj. Aaron Lawson, Special Operations Command, Pacific jumper and special tactics officer, jumps from a C-17 Globemaster III near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 26. The jump was filmed by veteran freefall cameraman and skydiver cinematographer Tom Sanders, and will be used in a scene of an upcoming episode of the television show “Hawaii 5-0.” (See additional photos on page A-7.)

USS Freedom to visit Hawaii

Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The U.S. Pacific Fleet announced Thursday that the Navy's first littoral combat ship (LCS) USS Freedom (LCS 1) will visit Hawaii on March 11 after departing its homeport of San Diego on March 1 for a maiden deployment to the Asia-Pacific region.

Making good on a pledge made initially by former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at the 2011 Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Freedom will deploy to Southeast Asia and Singapore for approximately eight months. Marking the first of many planned rotational deployments to the western Pacific for the new LCS platform, Freedom will conduct maritime security operations with regional partners and allies.

“Freedom’s maiden deployment is another clear signal of the Navy’s enduring commitment to maintain security and stability in the vital Asia-Pacific region,” said Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of the

U.S. Pacific Fleet. “Rotationally deploying our new littoral combat ships improves our warfighting capability and directly supports the Navy’s rebalance strategy to the Asia-Pacific.

“Even in the face of potential budget cuts, there should be no doubt that the U.S. Pacific Fleet remains on watch and that we will continue to deploy our most capable units forward to operate with our allies and partners,” Haney said.

After making initial port visits in Hawaii and Guam, Freedom is expected to participate in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) in Singapore and in select phases of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series in Southeast Asia.

During the first-ever LCS deployment, Freedom will demonstrate the operational capabilities and allow the Navy to evaluate crew rotation and maintenance plans. Fast, agile and mission-focused, LCS platforms are designed to employ modular mission

packages that can be configured for three separate purposes: surface warfare, mine countermeasures or anti-submarine warfare. Freedom will be initially manned by a “Gold” crew of 91 Sailors mission package personnel and an aviation detachment to operate an embarked MH-60 helicopter.

“We are genuinely excited about our deployment,” said Cmdr. Timothy Wilke, Freedom’s Gold Crew commanding officer.

“The men and women of Freedom have worked extremely hard to get us to where we are today, and I couldn’t be prouder. We’re ready to get out there, work with regional navies and show the world what this ship can do,” Wilke said.

Freedom will remain homeported in San Diego throughout this rotational deployment to Southeast Asia. Midway through Freedom’s deployment, a crew-swap will be conducted with the “Blue” crew, commanded by Cmdr. Patrick C. Thien.

For more information on USS Freedom, click on: <http://www.public.navy>.



Photo by Maj. Johnpaul Arnold

Adm. Samuel Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, participates in a media interview Jan. 22, during his visit of to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. before his departure back to Hawaii.

Locklear: Budget uncertainty threatens Asia-Pacific rebalance

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sequestration and budget uncertainties are already impacting U.S. Pacific Command’s (PACOM) operations and loom “like an avalanche” that could ultimately undermine the U.S. rebalance to Asia-Pacific in accordance with the new U.S. strategic guidance, the top commander in the region told Congress today.

Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III told the House Armed Services Committee that unpredictability in the budget process has “limited our flexibility to manage and have the potential to undermine our strategic

rebalance momentum, as our ability to operate and maintain our force is at increased risk.”

Locklear emphasized that PACOM will continue to work with the services to preserve the homeland defense and crisis-response capabilities within forward deployed forces.

But the impact, he said, extends across the command’s mission areas: its ability to provide credible deterrence; to provide assurance to seven treaty allies in the region; and to support its ongoing efforts to ensure the security environment remains stable.

Locklear shared concern about the near-term impact on the services’ readiness accounts, reducing the availability of

ready aircraft, ships and carriers and other assets that he called vital to PACOM’s reach across its sweeping area of responsibility that covers 52 percent of the globe.

He noted, for example, that a ship that was scheduled to deploy on March 1 was still on station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii because of reduced operating dollars that impact everything from flying hours to fighter rotations to carrier presence.

Sequestration could also trigger cuts in PACOM’s exercise program, a cornerstone of the command’s efforts to increase capacity and promote multilateral collaboration across the region,

See IMPACT, A-2



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 James R. Evans

The littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) is planning to arrive in Hawaii Monday

JBPHH prepares to implement changes to services

As a result of budget reviews and a mission assessment, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is preparing to implement changes to some services. An article outlining the changes will run in next week’s edition of Ho’okele.



Patterson relieves Mack during USS Hawaii change of command **See page A-2**



Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Hawaii kicks off annual fund drive **See pages A-2**



Friends, families welcome home USS Olympia Sailors **See page A-4**



Rear Adm. Wetherald discusses budget cuts in Hawaii **See page A-6**



Oahu’s natural wonders makes it ideal for a ‘staycation’ **See page B-1**



Early-entry deadline for Ford Island Bridge Run ends March 22 **See page B-4**

Patterson relieves Mack during USS Hawaii change of command

MC2 Steven Khor

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

The warrior spear was passed to a new commanding officer at a change of command ceremony held March 1 for the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. William A. Patterson relieved Cmdr. Stephen G. Mack as commanding officer of USS Hawaii.

Former governor of Hawaii and the ship's sponsor, Linda Lingle, was the ceremony's guest speaker. She praised Mack for his exceptional performance while in command of the submarine.

"Congratulations Cmdr. Mack. You will always have a special place in my heart and in the heart of the people of Hawaii," said Lingle.

Mack said he is proud of having the opportunity



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Cmdr. Stephen G. Mack (center) is honored by the former governor of Hawaii Linda Lingle (left) and Capt. James C. Childs, commander of Submarine Squadron 1, as Mack receives the Legion of Merit award for his duty as commanding officer of USS Hawaii (SSN 776) from January 2010 to March 2013. The ceremony was held March 1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

to command USS Hawaii and work with some fantastic Sailors.

"These are the shipmates who sailed safely well over 120,000 nauti-

cal miles while I was in command. These are the warriors who deployed

our ship to the western Pacific, executing all assigned tasking as we completed the first WESTPAC for the Virginia-class and the second six-month deployment for the 'war canoe,'" said Mack.

"They are the reason Hawaii has done so well while I was fortunate enough to be a part of this team," he added.

Mack praised and thanked many members of his crew, from the most senior officer to the newest seaman. He said USS Hawaii is a special boat with an equally gifted crew and he was fortunate to serve on this fine ship named after the beautiful island home so rich in cultural and military history.

Following his speech, he passed on the ceremonial Hawaiian warrior spear to Patterson.

As Patterson assumed command of USS Hawaii, he thanked Mack for turning over a great ship and an even greater crew. "This warship repre-

sents the confluence of two of history's strongest warfighting mariner traditions: the Hawaiian warrior and the United States submarine force. Steve has done a great job bringing the two traditions together to improve the ship. Steve, thank you for a great ship," said Patterson.

USS Hawaii is the first commissioned vessel of its name. The submarine was named to recognize the support the Navy has enjoyed from the people and state of Hawaii and in honor of the rich heritage of submarines in the Pacific.

"The war canoe is a like an *ihe koa* – a warrior spear – pointing west, ready to throw us into the fight with our island chain trailing off behind the ship," said Mack.

During the ceremony, Mack received the Legion of Merit award for his performance as the commanding officer of USS Hawaii from January 2010 to March 2013.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Hawaii kicks off annual fund drive

Story and photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Hawaii

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) kicked off its annual fund drive March 4 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sailors who were designated as key persons by their respective commands attended the event to receive informational supplies and training about the NMCRS fund drive.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, shared a sea story and a few remarks about the importance of the NMCRS.

"When I was an ensign, I spent beyond my means

because I was anticipating my next check," Ponds said. "I wasn't good at balancing my checkbook. Then tragedy struck; I had to go home on an emergency leave situation and had no money in my bank account.

"I went and talked to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and told them my story. Within 24 hours, I was on a plane from Newport, R.I. to Montgomery, Ala. I never knew until that day what this organization means to so many individuals," said Ponds.

Ponds also spoke about the importance of keeping the drive voluntary.

"There's not an expectation," said Ponds. "There's a desire that if they [Sailors] can contribute to this worthwhile effort, that they do so. But do so willingly and freely."

NMCRS, a volunteer organization which began in



Paul Belanger, director of Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor, speaks to Sailors and Marines during the fund drive kickoff March 4 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. The fund drive continues through April 5.

1904, offers financial assistance to Sailors and Marines by providing them with budget counseling and by offering interest-free loans and grants.

"When I talk about NMCRS, I'd like to think of it as an insurance plan or a trust fund, because really that's what it is," said Paul Belanger, director of

NMCRS Pearl Harbor.

"Whatever monies you folks raise is not my money. It's not the society's money; in effect, it's your money. You're putting money in

trust in an insurance plan in the event that somewhere down the line there's an emergency. This is the only organization I can think of that has this sort of plan. I'm a civilian, so when I have an emergency, I have the bank and family. You folks have NMCRS," Belanger said.

NMCRS Pearl Harbor's fund drive will continue until April 5.

The mission of NMCRS is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational and other assistance to members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need, and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

For more information or to donate, visit www.pixi.com/~nmcrshi or send an e-mail to pearlharbor@nmcrs.org.

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15th Wing seeks posts, feedback

The 15th Wing's official Facebook page launched two weeks ago. Thank you for your support and interaction. Now, we need your help.

Nobody knows what would interest the 15th Wing family more than you, the members. If you have any information or suggestions for posts that will benefit the 15th Wing *ohana*, please submit it by emailing the photo, video or link that you would like posted, the wording you would like attached, and any pertinent information to 15thWing@gmail.com.

This email address is specific to the Facebook page and should only be used for such. For other 15th Wing Public Affairs business, continue to utilize 15wg.pa@us.af.mil.

Impact extends across mission areas

Continued from A-1

he said.

The PACOM mission requires the staff to engage actively across 35 nations, but with a 50 percent cut on the command travel budget that's already taken effect, it's significantly impacted these efforts.

"We're 50 percent effective today because we had to cut that," Locklear told the House panel. "That's a small thing, but it gives you an indication of the kind of near-term impacts.

"The long term ... is going to be like an avalanche," he continued.

"And pulling those dollars out will ultimately result in less capacity ... for my [area of responsibility]," Locklear added.

"It also will ultimately, if allowed to, undermine the rebalance," a strategy he emphasized is vital for the future.

He noted in his written statement examples of what looms ahead for PACOM as service funding is cut, including a dramatic decrease in training tempo and fewer rotational forces in the theater. This will lead to

"decreased ability to accomplish assigned missions, respond to crises and support theater engagement objectives," he warned.

"These funding cuts will challenge our ability to execute both discreet operations and the broader Indo-Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy," he said.

Locklear noted during his testimony progress made over the past year to begin putting that strategy in place, recognizing that it won't happen overnight but, over the long term, will set conditions that impact future generations.

"We have to get it right in the Asia Pacific," he said. "The road we're on will undermine that."

Asked about pending civilian furloughs slated to begin next month, Locklear said they will have a "somewhat tragic" effect on 38,000 Defense Department civil service employees in the region, many of them based in Hawaii.

These employees are vital to PACOM's mission, Locklear told the committee. "I think, over time, in a low volunteer force, the line between our civil servants who serve in our

Defense Department and our military have blurred to some degree," he said.

"And we rely very, very heavily on these civil servants to do the types of things that you might historically have considered as core military."

A 20 percent reduction in pay, expected to begin taking effect in late April, will be devastating to many who already shoulder particularly high living costs, he said.

But the furloughs will have a trickle-down effect across the command, Locklear told the panel, reducing manpower within the Department of Defense Education Activity schools and overseas hospital system made up predominantly of civilian employees.

"That means that one-fifth of the teachers won't be teaching on any given day in those schools which are already probably pressurized to be as efficient as possible," he said. "Our hospital systems overseas are mostly government employees, so we're going to have a decrease in the hospital care immediately.

"I could just keep going on, but that's the tip of the iceberg," he said.

Community meetings set for March 11, 13, 18

Military housing residents can meet with Navy leadership and Forest City representatives at upcoming community meetings scheduled for 6 p.m. March 11 at Moanalua Community Center, March 13 at Ford Island Community Center and March 18 at NCTAMS in the conference center (the old chapel).

Residents are encouraged to take this opportunity to ask questions and address concerns. For more information, contact your Forest City community manager's office.

Diverse Views



“What was your favorite childhood toy, and why?”

Staff Sgt. Michelle Randolph
647th Civil Engineer Squadron



“A Michael Jackson doll. I guess because it seemed he could do anything. Everything about him: his music, dance changed me. He was my hero, I guess you could say.”



Fire Controlman 3rd Class Deborah Rosen
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“My favorite childhood toy was a stuffed deer toy. I called it soft paws because of the tag on the back end. It was basically a security blanket for me while I was sleeping.”

Paul Hibbeln
15th Wing Historian

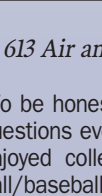


“It’s hard to decide, either Legos or Star Wars figures, probably both together. No one had enough Star Wars toys, but with a couple of thousand Legos, you could totally make up for it by building sets around them.”



Quartermaster 1st Class (SW/AW) Eric Williams
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“My favorite childhood toy was my Nintendo. I enjoyed playing games such as Contra, Paperboy, Zelda and all the Mario Games (Donkey Kong). It was entertainment for me.”



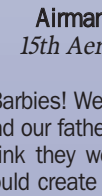
Staff Sgt. Marcus Perez
613 Air and Space Operations Center

“To be honest, this is one of the hardest questions ever asked of me. Growing up I enjoyed collecting sports cards (basketball/baseball). But toys...I have to go with GI Joes’ action figures. Go Joe!”



Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Johnny Lara
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“My favorite childhood toy was my soccer ball, because I always dreamed about being a famous soccer player all my life.”



Airman 1st Class Rachel Urquhart
15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

“Barbies! We didn’t have much growing up and our father wasn’t part of our lives, so I think they were so fun to me because I could create this dream life, and be whatever I wanted to be, and have whatever I wanted to have. The sky was the limit.”



Staff Sgt. Jerome Abayon
647th Civil Engineer Squadron

“A top. Growing up in the Philippines, we had tops that were of wood and a nail. We made it spin using a piece of rope. There were many ways of playing it. One would be trying to smash another kid’s top while it was spinning on the ground. Another was tossing it in the air and have it land on our hands while spinning.”

Staff Sgt. Daniel Thompson
535th Airlift Squadron



“A Popple. I’m all about getting the most bang for my buck. I suppose this toy, being able to transform into a soccer ball and snuggle buddy, was the first toy in my life that showed me the path to pinch pennies and get more for less.”



1st Lt. Ji Park
613th Air and Space Operations Center

“Legos. It was always fun getting a toy that was like a puzzle. The Legos came in 100 pieces, and the motivation to build them was always an incentive to buy them, since when you have completed building the Legos, you would get a sense of accomplishment. And it was exciting to play with a product that you felt like you built yourself.

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and MC2 Nardel Gervacio)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

15th OSS Airman nominated for heroism award

Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

15th Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Ronald J. Giannetti, 15th Operations Support Squadron special missions flight attendant instructor, was recently selected as the Pacific Air Forces 2013 Non-commissioned Officer Association Vanguard Award recipient.

The NCOA Vanguard Award, which recognizes enlisted members for acts of heroism that directly result in saving lives or preventing injury, was awarded to Giannetti on Sept. 3, 2012 for his part in rescuing a young girl.

While hiking with his friends on Labor Day, Giannetti noticed a teen girl having difficulty on the trail. He leaned down and offered her his hand and to help pull her up a wall, then continued his trek. On the return leg of the hike, he crossed paths with the girl again. She was sitting on a rock, slumped over and being held up by two friends.

He noticed that she was



Tech. Sgt. Ronald J. Giannetti

breathing very heavily, appeared unconscious and non-responsive. Giannetti immediately offered aid to the teen. Joined by a few other hikers, Giannetti and the group offered the young girl food and water before building a make-shift gurney out of their clothing and tree branches and carrying the girl down the mountain.

“Moving the girl down the mountain was very tricky because it involved navigating rock walls, mud and hills,” he said. “We could have easily slipped and fell 30 feet if we weren’t careful.”

Giannetti said the group took turns carrying the litter

to make sure no one became exhausted on the hike down. He used his break to call 911 for emergency assistance, but the call was dropped due to low reception in the area.

The hike continued on for some time before the group was discovered by a nearby helicopter and finally rescued by a local fire department. The teen was airlifted to a hospital where she made a full recovery, thanks to the help of Giannetti and his fellow hikers.

“I have no doubt my Air Force training helped me in this situation,” he said of his rescue efforts. “I can say with no hesitation that the Self Aid Buddy Care, Air Care Flight Attendant Cabin Training Systems training and my Combat Survival School training came into play on that mountain.”

According to Capt. Gabriel Chavarria, PACAF 15th Operations Group, nominating Giannetti for the award was an easy decision. He knew Giannetti would be a perfect candidate for the 2013 Non-commissioned Officer Association Vanguard Award.

“After hearing the story and seeing his interview on TV, I felt he needed to be recognized for his good deed,” he said. “His story was simply amazing and is a testament to what kind of person he is. He is always there to help anyone in need both in and out of the office.”

Chavarria said Giannetti’s proactive attitude is present on and off duty.

“Tech. Sgt. Giannetti is one of the most professional NCOs that I have had the pleasure and honor to work with,” he said. “His work ethic, can-do attitude and professionalism are all exceptional. He is creative and ingenious, which was evident in how he handled himself when coming to the aid of a fellow hiker.”

As PACAF’s 2013 Non-commissioned Officer Association Vanguard Award recipient, Giannetti has advanced to the Air Force level of competition. The winner of the Air Force Vanguard Award is expected to be announced in the near future.

For the original report of the heroic actions on the trail, visit <http://bit.ly/OjlmBp>.

Electricity rates increase for NAVFAC Hawaii customers

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

A town hall meeting, led by Capt. Michael Williamson, Naval Facilities Engineering (NAVFAC) Hawaii commanding officer, was held Feb. 21 at Hickam Memorial Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event was held with command customers to discuss electricity billing rate increases and the way ahead.

“The rate increases everyone is experiencing this fiscal year will continue into FY14 but will stabilize compared to the projected market rate in FY15 and beyond,” said Williamson.

“The increases are necessary due to the loss the Navy incurred while maintaining lower electricity rates for our customers but paying higher costs to our supplier, Hawaiian Electric Company,” he said.

Utility rates are established during the standard Department of Navy (DON) budget process. From FY07 to FY12, NAVFAC Hawaii customers paid less for electricity than Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) was actually charging the Navy. This is because customers are billed an approved stabilized rate that does not change during the fiscal year. This is to avoid the electricity rate volatility and so customers can plan their annual budgets accordingly.

However, the stabilized electricity billing rates in the past few years for Hawaii resulted in large losses and, according to Department of Defense (DoD) financial management policies and regulations, these financial losses have to be recovered through rate increases just as over-charging must be returned to customers through lowered rates in future years. The decision to

increase the electricity billing rate for FY14 is still pending completion of the Navy’s budget process.

The FY13 electricity rate increased by 30 percent over the rate charged in FY12. The pending electricity billing rate for FY14 would be an increase of approximately 123 percent from the rate charged in FY13. In addition, a surcharge is added to the electricity billing rate for non-DoD federal customers and private party customers to reimburse the Navy for overhead not already included in the electricity billing rate.

To put the NAVFAC Hawaii losses incurred into perspective, the cost of electricity purchased from HECO increased by 68 percent between 2008 and 2012 while NAVFAC Hawaii customer electricity billing rates only increased 18 percent. The loss amounts to tens of millions of dollars that are required to be recovered.

WASPs walk flight line



U.S. Air Force photo

WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots) are shown here walking on the flight line Jan. 22, 1944 at Laredo Army Air Field, Texas. The WASPs participated in non-combat missions, which freed up male pilots for combat duties. March is Women’s History Month.



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Friends, families welcome home USS Olympia Sailors

**Story and photo by
MC2 Steven Khor**

*Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs Office*

Friends and families of the crew from USS Olympia (SSN 717) gathered at the submarine piers March 4 to welcome back the Los Angeles-class submarine as it returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a seven-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

“Olympia accomplished national tasking, theatre tasking and security cooperation events throughout the [U.S.] 7th Fleet area and enhanced continued relations with our allies overseas,” said Cmdr. Michael J. Boone, Olympia’s commanding officer.

Boone said the submarine

crew worked around the clock, applying months of preparations and workups into mission accomplishment. The range of the missions offered a broad aspect for training and development, creating experienced Sailors across all mission areas.

“The hard work and determination from the crew of Olympia these past seven months developed a camaraderie that is second to none. We are returning to Pearl Harbor as a more experienced and capable unit,” said Boone.

During the deployment, 23 Sailors earned their designations as qualified in submarines and now wear their dolphin warfare insignia.

Boone added that the crew was able to get time off to experience the diverse cultures in Yokosuka, Japan; Subic Bay, Philippines;



Senior Chief Sonar Technician Jim Sowa kisses his wife, Heidi, for the first time following the return March 4 of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a seven-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

Guam and Singapore. While in a few of these foreign ports, foreign dignitaries and ambassadors toured the submarine.

When the deployment was finally complete, the crew came home to a waiting crowd of smiling families and friends at the pier.

“I am estatic. It’s been such a long time. The best thing is just to hold my husband and have him home,” said Beecee Hall, an Olympia spouse.

Olympia is the second ship of the U.S. Navy to be named after Olympia, Wash. Commissioned in Nov. 17, 1984, it is the 29th ship of the Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarines. The submarine is 362-feet long, displaces 6,900 tons and can be armed with sophisticated Mark-48 torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Pacific Air Forces wins highest AF safety award, mishap numbers down

**Story and photo by
Master Sgt.
Matthew McGovern**

*Pacific Air Forces Public
Affairs*

Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) recently earned the Secretary of the Air Force Safety Award, recognizing the most effective safety program in the Air Force for fiscal year 2012.

“Receiving this top safety award is a testament to our professional Airmen, both on and off duty,” said Lt. Gen. Stanley Kresge, PACAF vice commander.

Air Force Safety Award Board officials made their selection for the Air Force’s highest safety accolade based on the effectiveness of the safety programs of major commands, direct reporting units and field operating agencies. Pacific Air Forces Airmen demonstrated this with the lowest



Capt. David Rechner (left) and Master Sgt. Dan Williams conduct a safety spot inspection of Airman 1st Class Kasey Kirby as he inspects the wing of a C-17 Globemaster III for fuel leaks Feb. 22 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

mishap rates the command has seen in 10 years.

“I am extremely pleased that the Airmen of this command are being recognized at the Air Force level,” said Col. Robert Jones, PACAF safety director. “It is through their commitment to safe operations that PACAF won this award.”

Pacific Air Forces’ safety statistics for 2012 included a ground safety mishap reduction of 25 percent, a mishap costs reduction of 21 percent and a lost duty day decrease of 26 percent.

“Commanders and supervisors at all levels incorporated safety principles into their plans and programs and ensured the application of sound risk management while accomplishing our goals and objectives,” Jones said.

“Our leaders emphasized the tenants of commander’s focus, supervisor involve-

ment and individual responsibility to energize mishap prevention efforts,” he said.

Proactive safety initiatives in aviation also led to historic minimums and zero fatalities. Class B mishaps, or damage to assets from \$500 thousand to 2 million, were at their lowest level in 10 years, while class C mishaps, or damage to assets from \$500 to \$50 thousand, were at their lowest in five years.

Pacific Air Forces has approximately 45,000 military and civilian personnel serving in nine strategic locations and numerous smaller facilities, primarily in Hawaii, Alaska, Japan, Guam and the Republic of Korea. Approximately 340 fighter and attack aircraft are assigned to the command with approximately 100 additional deployed aircraft stationed rotationally on Guam.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



International media look on as fireworks show dazzles a crowd of 180,000 spectators marking the end of the first day at Australian International Airshow March 1 at Avalon Airport in Geelong, Australia. Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam participated in the biennial show.

Department of Defense photo by
U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



(Left) Chief Machinist's Mate Herman Arevalos, (right) from the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Greeneville (SSN 772) jokes with Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Akio Ikeshita, from the Japanese Soryu-class submarine Hakuryu (SS 503) of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, during a tour on USS Greeneville at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Steven Khor



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Peter D. Lawlor
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert joins Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, (right), commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos, (center left), and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark Welsh, (left), to testify March 5 before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies about the effects of the continuing resolution and sequestration on military readiness.



(Above) Royal Canadian Air Force Sgt. Mark Douglas, assigned to 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, observes the takeoff of a CH-124 Sea King helicopter from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam. The helicopter was transporting personnel to Canadian Halifax-class frigate HMCS Regina (FFH 334) on its scheduled port visit to Pearl Harbor as part of an eight-month deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



(Above) Canadian Halifax-class frigate HMCS Regina (FFH 334) navigates off the coast of Hawaii as part of a scheduled port visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Regina was visiting Hawaii as part of an eight-month deployment in the Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



(Left) Two U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors, Two F-16 Fighting Falcons, a KC-135 Stratotanker, a B-52 Stratofortress and a C-17 Globemaster III, all currently assigned to U.S. Pacific Air Forces at JBPHH join with Australian military aircraft and civilian aircraft from around the world for display on the tarmac at Avalon Airport in Geelong, Australia.

Department of Defense photo by
U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Rear Adm. Wetherald discusses budget cuts in Hawaii

(Editor's note: This is an excerpt of the testimony that was presented March 6 by Rear Adm. Hugh D. Wetherald, deputy chief of staff for plans, policies and requirements, U.S. Pacific Fleet before state lawmakers. To view video transcripts of the session, visit olelo.org.)

The net effect of sequestration will be a negative impact in the Indo-Asia-Pacific at a critical time as we look to stabilize our forward presence and increase engagement with our treaty allies and partners.

Although Navy Secretary Ray Mabus did make an announcement on March 2 about immediate impacts caused by sequestration, none of those initial impacts immediately involve Hawaii-based units.

Like other Navy leaders, Adm. Haney has directed that decisions needed to meet these forced sequestration cuts will be

deferred until the last possible moment in order to provide flexibility, thoughtful deliberation and reversibility. We are still hopeful that Congress will act, to include passing a much-needed appropriations bill.

Living with the fiscal uncertainty of a long-term continuing resolution is a big problem for the Navy and the other services. Although everyone is rightly focused on the impact of the sequestration cuts, it is also important to understand that shortfalls from the continuing resolution limit our flexibility to react because it does not allow us to transfer funds for operation and maintenance from other accounts. Simply stated, if Congress acts in the next couple of weeks to provide us a robust appropriations bill, we will be in a better position better to manage sequestration impacts with respect to Pacific Fleet operations.

We are approaching the combined fiscal impact of sequestration and the continuing resolution in a measured way. That said, it should be clear that we will not be able to afford the Navy we have today. As a result of the full year continuing resolution, combined with the sequestration cuts which were triggered in March, nearly half-way through the fiscal year, the Navy must absorb approximately \$9 billion (dollars) in cuts to our operations and maintenance accounts by Sept. 30.

The threat of an extended continuing resolution plus the cuts required by sequestration fundamentally alter the Navy's ability to fight, train and maintain our ships, aircraft and other critical equipment. As a result, we will have to make tough choices to delay or cancel some training, operations and maintenance. Again, we will defer these decisions until

the last possible moment, as we are hopeful that Congress will still act.

But hope is not a strategy, and Adm. Haney intends to lead the Pacific Fleet through this turbulence. His guiding principles will be to protect forward warfighting readiness in order to respond to any contingency, while minimizing the impact on our people. We are particularly concerned about the potential furlough one day a week of our valuable civilian teammates and how this will impact them, as well as our military workforce.

The Department of Defense has stated that enacting civilian furloughs is a measure of last resort and it is still working out details. On Feb. 20, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta notified Congress that most of the DoD civilian workforce will likely be furloughed for an average of one day per week for up to 22

weeks. Should Defense leaders make this decision, furloughs are expected to begin the week of April 25.

This essentially equates to a 20 percent cut in pay for each individual DoD civilian worker during the furlough period. The high cost of living here in Hawaii, combined with the fact that our civilians have not received a pay raise in nearly three years, has us deeply concerned about the negative effects of furloughs on morale.

The important work of our civilian workforce cannot be picked up by others in their absence. Civilians fix our ships, submarines and aircraft, staff our hospitals, handle contracting and financial management, and much more. All services or facilities that employ civilian personnel will be affected to some degree, to include reduced services, longer wait times, and fewer personnel available to provide necessary services.

We are also concerned with the impact to the highly skilled labor force that repairs and maintains our ships and submarines in Pearl Harbor. A reduction in funding will decrease the public and private shipyard capacity. Under sequestration and with no relief from the current continuing resolution, the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard funding could be reduced by approximately \$32 million (dollars) for this fiscal year, plus an additional \$28 million (dollars) if a furlough is executed. Additionally, we estimate that private sector maintenance could be impacted this fiscal year by approximately \$35 million (dollars).

Even though budget constraints will cause some turbulence in the short-term, there should be no doubt about the Navy's enduring commitment to maintain security and stability in the vital Asia-Pacific.

Shipyard leaders master personal and professional lives

David Tomiyama

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In their ongoing efforts to develop leaders and improve performance, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility held a 'personal mastery' class recently targeted at mid-level managers. Thirty-three shipyarders attended the week-long course on Ford Island.

The class identified their personal and career values and their vision for what they want to achieve in life.

The class also focused on emotional intelligence, self-trust, mental discipline,



Photo courtesy of Shipyard Code 100 Process Improvement

Shipyard leaders lend a hand in joint activities designed to foster teamwork during the Personal Mastery Executive Workshop held Feb. 11-15 on Ford Island.

concentration and visualization.

"There is a personal and professional aspect to the

class," said Melissa Lamerson, code 100 process improvement lead organization learning facilitator.

"The personal side helps individuals articulate what they truly want from life. The professional aspect helps them align their personal contributions to the shipyard with the big picture goals of the organization," Lamerson said.

In 2010, shipyard leaders sought to develop execution and program managers by aligning their efforts with that of the shipyard's to achieve significant improvement in performance.

"Senior leadership wanted to raise awareness of the importance of leadership and influence in the ship-

yard's key positions. They wanted to create a sustainable future for the command through alignment and networking," said Lamerson.

"We targeted and are continuing to target the execution and program managers and will eventually filter to first line supervisors and the workforce. The shipyard is committed to fostering personal growth and development of employees because we believe it will make the organization stronger as a whole," she said.

The class was the ninth Personal Mastery Execu-

tive Workshop. To date, 316 shipyard leaders have gone through the workshop. Shops are scheduled for April, July and August for those leaders who are selected to attend.

"I have found that everyone who has had this training is a cut above in professionalism, understanding our core business practices and how they are impacted by our personal actions and lead from the front," said Capt. Larry Scruggs, shipyard deputy commander. "This course is one of the best investments in our work force and will pay off immediately."

Hawaii Airmen get rare opportunity to stand in for Hawaii 5-0 actors



Photo by Tom Sanders

Maj. Aaron Lawson, Pacific jumper and special tactics officer with Special Operations Command, jumps from a C-17 Globemaster III near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 26. Lawson was recently given the opportunity to serve as a stunt double for actor Alex O'Loughlin, who plays Steve McGarrett, and will be featured alongside U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. John Phillips, SOCPAC jumper and parachute rigger, performing the freefall jump. This episode will air Monday, April 15 on CBS at 10 p.m. Eastern time.



Maj. Aaron Lawson, Special Operations Command, opens his parachute after performing a freefall jump from a C-17 Globemaster III.

Photo by Tom Sanders



Photo by James Menne

(Above) Maj. Aaron Lawson, Special Operations Command, (left) gets the green light for a jump from James Menne (right), chief of training and readiness for SOCPAC.

(Below) Members of the "Hawaii 5-0" production crew film the landing of Special Operations Command, Pacific freefall jumpers, Maj. Aaron Lawson, (left) and U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. John Phillips (right), near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Photo by Tom Sanders

